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We have written this abridgment of the misfortunes of Olivades, to convince mankind, how dangerous it is to do good against the will of the inquisition, and to be circum-spect in their conduct, where that tribunal subsists.



FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

Venner on Tobacco.

THERE is a work by Dr. Venner, published in quarto, in 1637, entitled, *Via recta ad vitam longam, or a plain philosophical demonstration of the nature, faculties and effects of all such things as by way of nourishment make for the preservation of health, &c. &c.* This contains some sensible things, and many opinions that the improvement of medical science has rendered obsolete, the whole written in a quaint style. The author has added to his work a treatise on Tobacco, of which the following is the title: *A brief and accurate treatise concerning the taking the fume of Tobacco, which very many in these days, do too licentious use: in which the immoderate, irregular, and unseasonable use thereof is reprehended, and the true nature and best manner of using it, perspicuously demonstrated. By To. Venner, Doctor of Physick in Bathe. London, printed 1637.* The use of Tobacco is permitted to persons of particular constitutions under certain circumstances. One of the directions for making it useful is, "a detaining of the fume only in the mouth, and thrusting it forth again at the nostrills, for heating and drying of the braine, and for dissolving and dissipating of cold humours, and superfluous vapours that reside in it." The author's opinions advert only to the use of this plant in smoking; the polished practice of chewing, and the fashion of snuff-taking, were probably introduced later, at least he says nothing about them; on the whole, he speaks very unfavourably of it. The treatise concludes with the following summary:

"Now that I may impose an end to this businesse, I will summarily rehearse the hurts that Tobacco inferreth, if it be used contrary to the order and way I have set

down. It drieth the braine, dimmeth the sight, vitiateth the smell, hurteth the stomach, destroyeth the concoction, disturbeth the humors and spirits, corrupteth the breath, induceth a trembling of the limbes, exsiccateh the wind-pipe, lungs, and liver, annoyeth the milt, scorcheth the heart, and causeth the blood to be adusted. Moreover it eliquateth the pinguie substance of the kidnies, and absumeth the geniture. In a word, it overthroweth the spirits, perverteth the understanding, and confoundeth the senses with a sudden astonishment, and stupiditie of the whole body. All which hurts I affirme, that the immoderate and intempestive use of Tobacco doth effect, both by reason of its temperament, but especially, through the property of its substance: wherefore the use of it is only tolerable by way of physick, not for pleasure or an idle custome."

"To conclude therefore, I wish them that desire to have *mentem sanam in corpore sano*, altogether to abandon *insanum praeposterunque Tobacci usum*. This is all which seemed good unto me to be written of Tobacco's fume, partly for shewing the right manner of using it, but especially for reproving the too licentious, liberall, and intempestive taking of it, which very many in these dayes, do to their own ruine lewdly, and for want of better employment foolishly effect."



FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

Sir,

IN offering for your Journal the following piece of biography, I should assign to you some of the reasons which induced me to take up what may be considered a singular subject. A professor of Astronomy at Bologna, had made a prophecy that the world would come to an end on the 18th of July last; and this fanatical prediction being noised abroad, found many believers among the ignorant and credulous, in various countries of Europe, and gave rise to some extravagances. While this was a topick of conversation, I happened to be engaged in